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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 26, 2004

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STOCKTON MEN ADMIT STEALING THOUSANDS OF BOTTLES OF OPUS ONE FROM WOODBRIDGE WINERY WAREHOUSE

Over \$380,000 Restitution Order Imposed in Sentencing of One Conspirator; Two Other Conspirators Await Sentencing

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Robert Owens, 30, of Stockton was sentenced today by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr., to a six-month term of home confinement, and a five-year term of probation. The defendant pleaded guilty to conspiracy to transport stolen goods in interstate commerce on April 5, 2004.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who is prosecuting the cases, Owens admitted as part of his plea that he conspired with Jay Berry and Paul Kraft to steal thousands of bottles of Opus One, a high-end wine, from the Woodbridge Winery warehouse in Acampo and sell it over the Internet. As part of his sentence, Owens was ordered to make restitution to the Robert Mondavi Corporation and its insurer in the amount of \$380,188, the approximate wholesale value of the stolen wine. (The Woodbridge Winery is a subsidiary of the Robert Mondavi Corporation.)

Co-conspirator Paul Kraft pleaded guilty to conspiracy to transport stolen goods before Judge Damrell just minutes before Owens was sentenced. As part of his plea, Kraft admitted

that he had rented vehicles to transport the stolen wine and had delivered wine to unsuspecting purchasers in Reno. Co-conspirator Jay Berry entered a guilty plea to the same charge on July 15, 2003. At the time of the thefts, Berry was employed by the Woodbridge Winery and worked in the warehouse.

Kraft is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Damrell on October 18, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. Berry is scheduled to be sentenced on October 4, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

The maximum penalty under federal law for conspiracy to transport stolen goods in interstate commerce is five years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, and a three-year term of supervised release. Restitution is mandatory, and the defendants will be jointly liable for the wholesale value of the stolen wine estimated at \$380,188.

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